



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 10, 2001

TO: Minerals File  
FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PBB*  
RE: Site Inspection, ECDC Environmental, LC, ECDC Clay Mine, M/015/062, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 6, 2001  
Time of Inspection: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Participants: Tony Gallegos and Paul Baker, DOGM

**Purpose of the inspection:**

We had no specific purpose in visiting the site other than Tony showing me where it was.

**Observations:**

The entrance gate was open, but there were no people or equipment on the site.

The operation is immediately adjacent to the Price River. The Colorado pikeminnow, a threatened species, has been found in the Price River upstream from the mine, so it is assumed it also inhabits areas near the mine.

Exhibit VI of the operation plan in the file, dated March 15, 2000, shows an earthen berm along the Price River from the haul road to the end of the disturbance. According to this map, there is a sharp bend in the Price River where the berm is within 25 feet of the river, but otherwise, the berm should be no less than about 50 feet from the river. (See the attached copy of the map from the plan.)

The mining disturbance has been extended to the south somewhat compared to the disturbance shown in Exhibit VI. It appears to still be in the designated disturbed area.

The earthen berm we found extends from near the bend in the river toward the northwest. From the bend toward the southeast, there is either no berm or only a short one that would be ineffective. The disturbance extends to within one or two feet of the bank of the Price

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River and has covered most of the riparian vegetation in this area. Part of the disturbance includes what appears to be a spoil or waste pile, and there is evidence some of this material has sloughed or eroded into the river.

Northwest of the waste or spoil pile before the berm begins, there is a place where drainage enters the river. There was some straw and baling twine here indicating there had been straw bale dikes, but there were no stakes or other anchors. There was evidence that water had flowed through the area, and it was apparent it washed away the straw bales.

Photos of the site are attached to this report. The photos labeled 2 and 7 are overviews of the area. In photo 2, the pile in the center left is the area presumed to be a spoil or waste pile. In the foreground is an area with a low or non-existent berm. Photos 1, 3, 5, and 8 show where we found remnants of a straw bale dike. The other pictures are intended to show the proximity of the disturbance to the Price River.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The site needs to be modified to match Exhibit VI in the plan. The spoil pile needs to be pulled back to allow room for an earthen berm 25 feet away from the river. Fill material placed near the river to the southeast of the pile also needs to be pulled back and a berm constructed to keep drainage from the mine from going into the river.

The plan does not provide for straw bales in the area where we found them, and the drainage from this area is supposed to flow toward a drainage basin near the center of the disturbed area. Properly installed and well maintained straw bales would be acceptable as sediment control, but allowing these would entail modifying the plan which the operator has not proposed.

After making the drainage control and other modifications to the site, the operator needs to revegetate the riparian areas near the Price River that were disturbed.

I do not consider the site to be in compliance with the Minerals Regulatory Program. The operator has not followed the operations plan and has not adequately controlled sediment from disturbed areas (R647-4-107.4). *The site modifications need to be done as soon as possible*, and the riparian areas should be seeded this fall. If cuttings or nursery stock are planted, that could be delayed until spring.

jb  
cc: Darin Olsen, ECDC  
m15-62-inspect.doc



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9/6/2001

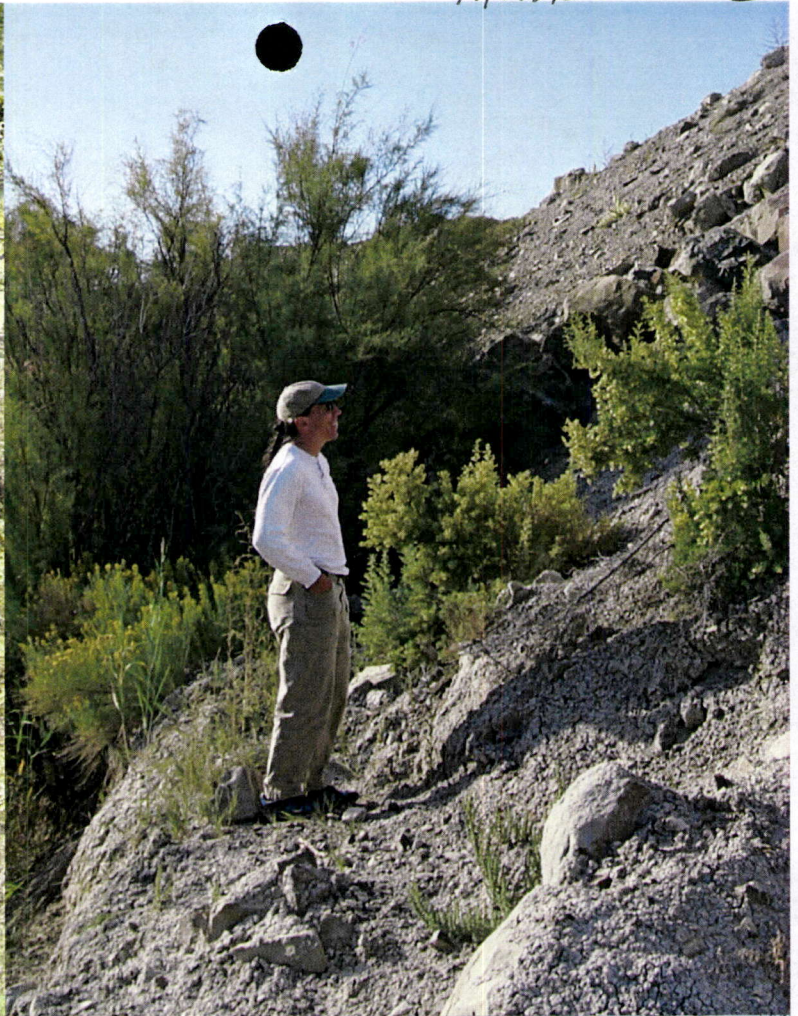
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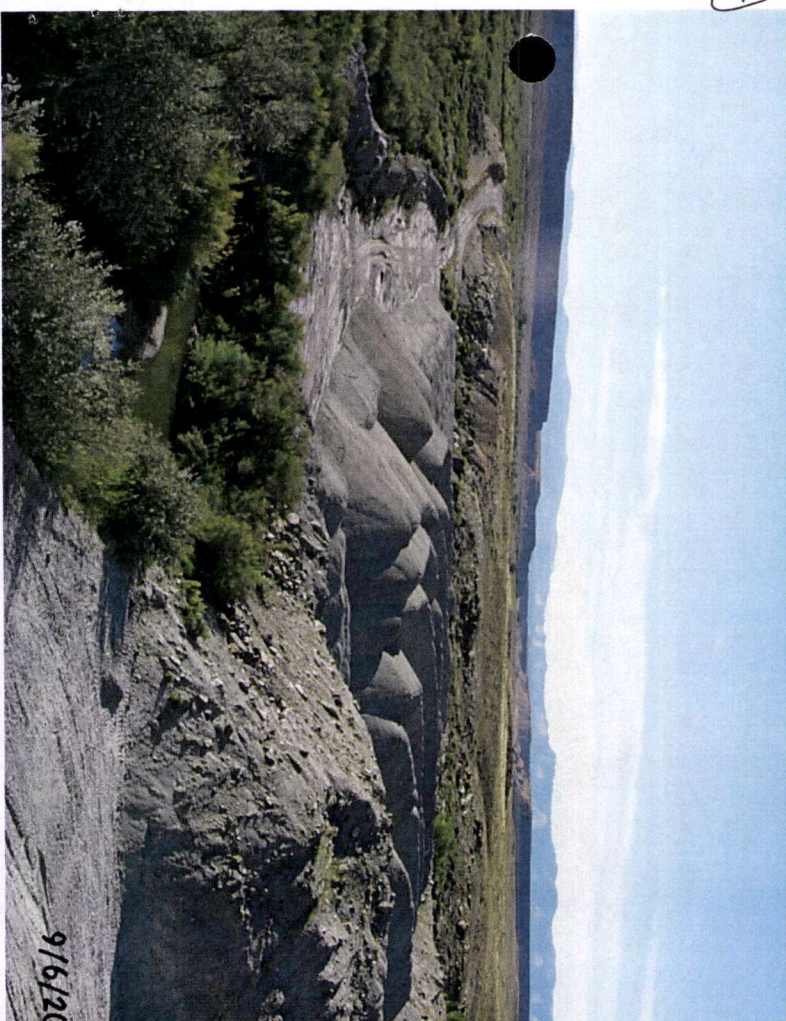




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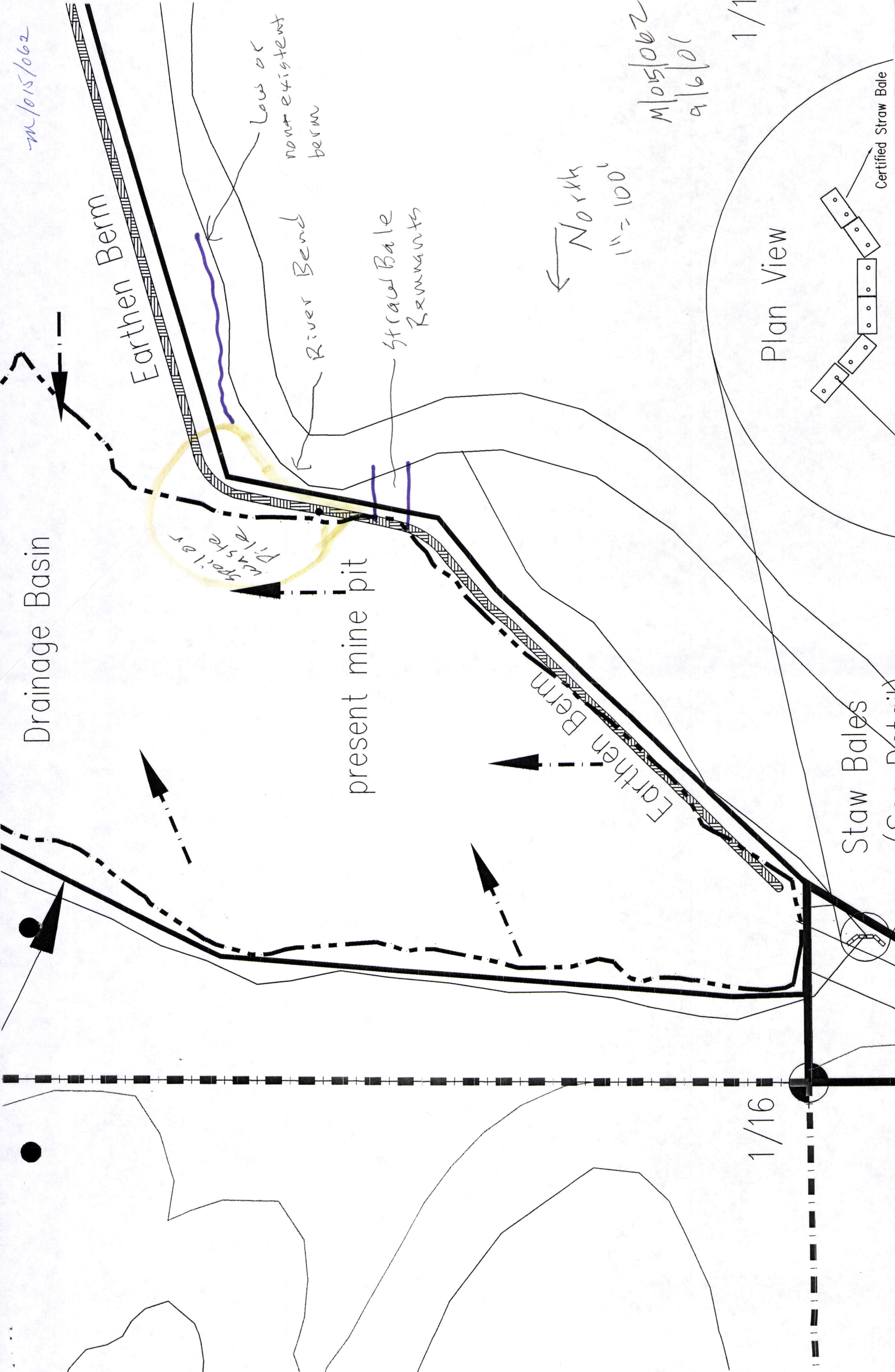
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Plan View

Staw Bales

Certified Straw Bale

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